

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A material handling method (and corresponding apparatus) packages material (such as loose-fill thermal insulation product) into elongate bags, and automatically arranges the elongate bags into groups, wherein at least one group has a cross-stacked configuration. The bag groups are automatically lifted and transported, group by group, to form a multi-row stack of elongate bags whose bottom row is realized by a cross-stacked group. The multi-row stack is transported to a customer. The elongate bags preferably each have dimensions of about 38" by 21" by 8.5" and carry about 27 lbs. of product. Preferably, a modified clamp truck is used to lift and transport the bag groups. The clamp truck has two clamp members that translate relative to one another with one clamp member having a central support bar integral thereto and laterally disposed between said two clamp members. The central support bar fits into a slot in a conveyor belt system to facilitate positioning the two clamps members around a cross-stacked bag group supported by the conveyor belt system.